

Amendments to the Specification

On page 4, line 25, please replace the paragraph with the following:

"In one embodiment, when T is less than a small value, such as 2 or 4, the process skips the post processing steps completely. This is shown in Figure 2, where the threshold, T , is compared to a predetermined minimum value MIN at 21. If T is less than MIN, the process ends. This approach effectively skips the post processing for a smooth block. It can significantly reduce the computational time when large areas of smooth background exist in an image."